

All of these features are recited in present claim 1.

Because of features (a) and (b), the fax machine of instant claim 1 belongs to the family of fax machines 100, 400 presented as prior art in Okutomi (col. 1, lines 14-23). However, in the instant case, the local network 500 is substituted by the Internet network.

The drawbacks of the prior art are then described in Okutomi. These drawbacks are related to the host computer 200 and to the special interface (col. 1, lines 36-39). The invention proposed by Okutomi is to get rid of such an interface and to be able to make use of an ordinary existing facsimile (col. 1, line 57), in other words, without any host computer.

This advantage of Okutomi invention is outlined through out the specification (col. 1, line 66 – col. 2, line 4; col. 4 lines 5-12; col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 2).

The result of Okutomi is achieved by a converter (figure 2) which is

(e) connected to the LAN or Internet computer network,

(f) connected either:

f1) to other fax machines through the telephone network (L2, PSTN) or

f2) to a local fax machine through a private telephone line (L1).

The converter interprets the data received on LAN, PSTN or L1 to determine the conversions to apply thereto prior to retransmitting them on these carriers. In other words, Okutomi proposed to substitute for a specialized interface a standardized line interface, possibly centralized (col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5).

The fax machine of the instant is quite different. It is a machine of the prior art as presented in Okutomi, with the above (a) and (b) features, along with the (c) features, also introduced in Okutomi, contrary to the statements about the above drawbacks as written in Okutomi col. 1, lines 36-48, and with the (d) features also, thanks to which, during a communication on one network, the operator can ask his correspondent to send his address on the other network.

Okutomi does not teach these (d) features.

On page 2 of his detailed Action, Examiner states, beginning of paragraph 3, that Okutomi teaches a machine to be connected to a PSTN.

This is not correct.

As a matter of fact, the Okutomi machine is connected to an electronic converter through L1, the converting being connected to an electronic converter through L1, the converter being connected to the PSTN, connected to the telephone L2 and not L1.

In Okutomi, the electronic converter is a compulsory intermediate means between the fax machine and the PSTN.

In the instant application, there is no converter. Furthermore, Okutomi does not teach any means for requesting an electronic address on the PSTN.

The examiner's interpretation of the capacities of the converter to update the correspondence table is much too broad when he writes, on page 3 of the detailed action, that the telephone number of the facsimile machine and its corresponding e-mail address are entered and received during a communication with the fax machines across the telephone network (PSTN) without referencing the passages of Okutomi reciting these features. Here, the examiner is again wrong.

As a matter of fact, it is the LAN controlling section which receives a message for storing these data in the correspondence table (col. 4, lines 13-22).

For transmitting these data to the converter through the telephone network (L1 or L2), the fax machine could not be existing ordinary fax machines without any means for doing that.

It should be reminded here that the object of Okutomi was to provide a system making use of existing fax machines.

The instant application combines the state of art recited in Okutomi and the invention proposed by Okutomi, this combination being certainly not obvious since Okutomi himself presented the two combined concepts as opposed to one another.

For the above reasons, applicant urges that Okutomi neither teaches nor suggests the instantly claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 1-3(a) rejection based on Okutomi is respectfully requested.

It is urged that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

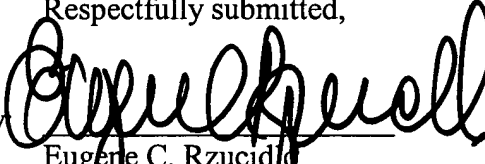
AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: October 3, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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